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	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Notice of Allowability	10/606,956	TSUZUKI ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Luan V. Van	1753
The MAILING DATE of this communication app All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85 NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT F of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.31	S (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this ap i) or other appropriate communication RIGHTS. This application is subject to 3 and MPEP 1308.	plication. If not included will be mailed in due course. THIS
1. This communication is responsive to <u>Amendment filed Ma</u>	ay <u>5, 2006</u> .	
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are <u>20-26</u> .		
<ul> <li>3. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority to a) All b) Some* c) None of the:  1. Certified copies of the priority documents have 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have 1. International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).  * Certified copies not received:  Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONI THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.</li> <li>4. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be subtracted including changes required by the Notice of Draftsper (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsper (b) Including changes required by the attached Examiner Paper No./Mail Date  Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the depattached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT</li> </ul>	re been received. re been received in Application No ocuments have been received in this " of this communication to file a reply MENT of this application.  mitted. Note the attached EXAMINER res reason(s) why the oath or declara ust be submitted. rson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO r's Amendment / Comment or in the C  1.84(c)) should be written on the drawithe header according to 37 CFR 1.121( osit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL r	national stage application from the complying with the requirements  'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF tion is deficient.  948) attached  Office action of the back) of d).  must be submitted. Note the
Attachment(s)  1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  2. Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB Paper No./Mail Date	6. Interview Summary Paper No./Mail Da /08), 7. Examiner's Amendi	te

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## **DETAILED ACTION**

## Allowable Subject Matter

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The instant invention is distinguished over the prior art of record by providing a plating apparatus comprising a member fixedly disposed in a plating vessel so that at least a portion of said member contacts a surface of the condudive substrate opposite to the one surface, at least the portion being conductive, wherein said member comprises a plurality of first members and a plurality of second members in a longitudinal direction of the conductive substrate, each of said first members being a flat plate, wherein a plurality of said first members are disposed with a gap between adjacent ones of said members and are fixed by supporting members, and wherein each of said second members is dispersed over upper surfaces of two adjacent first members, wherein a surface of said first member facing a surface of the conductive substrate is substantially flat, wherein said second member includes a projection for filling the gap, and wherein a surface of said projection facing the conductive substrate and a surface of said first member facing the conductive member are disposed on substantially the same plane, and wherein said second member is detachable from said member. The prior art of record neither teaches nor suggests the combination of limitations recited in the instant claims.

Kramer teaches a method and apparatus for electroplating a metallic strip comprising a contact member disposed on the periphery of the rotatable member and sealing bands 46 for sealing the strip to the rotatable member. The resilient sealing

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bands are formed of polyethylene or the like and are depressed by tension and collapse to form a seal on the periphery of the strip. The sealing bands thus would not be conductive, and they would not be flat in the longitudinal direction of the conductive strip, since they are disposed on a rotatable drum. Kramer also does not teach or suggest that the hard backing 64 or the sealing bands 46 are detachable. Polan teaches a method and apparatus for electroplating a metallic strip comprising a guiding frame having longitudinal and transverse members, but does not teach both members contacting the conductive substrate or that the members are detachable. Since the prior art of record neither teaches nor suggests the combination of steps recited in the instant claims, one skilled in the art would not have been motivated to perform the claimed process.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

## Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Luan V. Van whose telephone number is 571-272-8521. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30-5:00.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nam Nguyen can be reached on 571-272-1342. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

LVV May 18, 2006

> NAM NGUYEN || SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINED TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1700